



Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

Department of Police · City of Chicago
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T. Johnson
Superintendent of Police

August 19, 2019

Via Email:

Matt Chapman

78192-89338189@requests.muckrock.com

RE: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST
FOIA FILE NO.: P514090

Dear Matt Chapman:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received August 12, 2019 for the following:

"Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

A copy of all requests sent by CPD for viewing any footage from any Ring camera. Include information of whether the footage was successfully used in determining whether any criminal activity occurred.

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2019/07/amazon-writes-scripts-for-cops-to-sling-ring-home-cameras-report-says/>."

Your request was reviewed by the undersigned in collaboration with the Department's Information Services Division and Bureau of Detectives. It was determined that your request is denied. Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g). In order to comply with your request as written, this Department would have to conduct an extensive amount of research requiring the manual review of every incident in which an area was canvassed in order to determine whether or not video from a Ring camera was requested, viewed, and/or inventoried. Without direction from you as to which specific incidents may have involved the review of Ring camera video, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this Department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.'" *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)).

Please be advised, upon consultation with the Department's Bureau of Detectives, it is possible that CPD may have viewed or obtained Ring camera video as a result of canvassing a centralized area following an incident; however, CPD neither tracks Ring camera videos nor has any automated mechanism by which to query for requests sent by CPD for viewing any footage from any Ring camera. Therefore, this task represents an unduly burdensome action upon the Department.

At this time, your request as currently written is unduly burdensome. Pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. Please let me know if you need assistance in narrowing. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted that specifies what records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to process your petition. CPD encourages you to review your request to ascertain the details of your query. If there is a particular incident in which you are interested in seeing if Ring camera video was obtained during the investigation, it may be possible to conduct a search with these additional parameters. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the incident and records you would like CPD to provide. Please reference FOIA file #P514090 in your narrowed response to avoid any miscommunication or duplication of work.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department
Attention: Freedom of Information
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653
foia@chicagopolice.org

You have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at 877-299-3642. You may also seek judicial review under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

A. Marlan
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Chicago Police Department
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114
3510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653